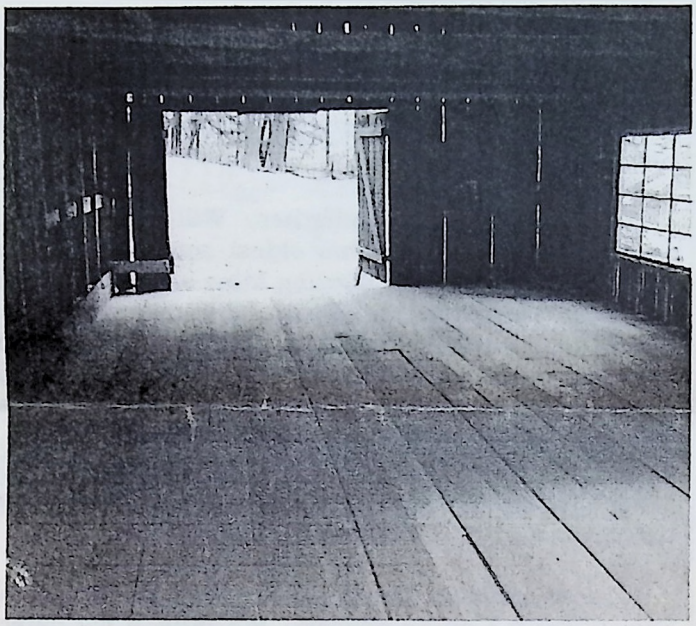
Newsletter of the
BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
November 2001

CHANGES IN THE COOKHOUSE: FLOOR REPLACED, WINDOWS RESTORED



The restored Cookhouse floor

Check out our New and Improved Website

After six years, we've brought our Website up to date -- well, comparatively speaking anyway. It has a brand new look and some new features, including a page of old photos of the Post Office showing how it deteriorated through the years and has been restored again.

Take a few minutes and take a look. It's at:

www.buncom.org

(Thanks to Cleve Twitchell at the Medford Mail Tribune for featuring the Website recently.)

It's Back to the Future

Thanks to a generous gift from two Society members who asked not to be identified, the floor of the Cookhouse has been replaced with locally milled wood, and we're ready to start calling it "The Dancehall."

As many Society members know, the old floor had rotted and had several holes which made it treacherous after decades of use as a barn. Over the summer, Joe Schattler and Phil Clark tore out the old floor, set new footings and cut the floorboards on the portable mill Scotty and Connie Gray purchased up on Yale Creek Road.

While they were at it, Joe and Phil offered to donate two large old windows that fit perfectly in openings that had been boarded up for longer than just about anybody can remember.

So now we have a safe and bright interior for Buncom Day activities, and the Cookhouse regains its original look.

More restoration on the way

That isn't all that's in the works. The roofed awning area outside the Cookhouse is due to be repaired and restored in time for Buncom Day next spring.

And the Directors have approved one other project. Way back when, the Post Office had a porch. (There's a photograph on Page 4 that shows what it looked like in the 1950s.) That's due to be restored as well.

The Board understands that it is important to complete both projects in as historically accurate a manner as possible, so we will be working with Joe and Phil, experts in that kind of work, to make sure the restored buildings remain authentic to their past.

Oops, We Forgot!

SOCIETY REACHES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Buncom Historical Society celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. The official date of incorporation was April 24, 1991.

We guess time flies when you're having fun, because in all the excitement of getting ready for Buncom Day last spring we forgot to mark the occasion.

The Society began as an idea shortly after Reeve and Lyn Hennion purchased the ranch where Buncom stands. Because there was so much interest in Buncom by Little Applegate residents, a group of neighbors got together and formally established the Society to preserve its buildings and history. The original directors were the Hennions, Ben and Connie Fowler, J.B. and Carolyn Roberts, and Ron and Donna Marchetti, all of whom lived within shouting distance of Buncom (all of them but the Marchettis still do).

The first Buncom Day was Memorial Day weekend of 1992. That year it was simply a yard sale, but in succeeding years grew into Buncom Day as we know it today. The biggest celebration was in 1996, when we celebrated the Centennial of the Buncom Post Office. We had some 2,500 visitors that year, and we all decided it was a great time, but a lot bigger than we wanted to encourage on an annual basis.

In recent years, Buncom Day has attracted 500-600 people.

Besides Buncom Day and extensive repair and restoration of the buildings, the Society in 1995 sponsored the book, "Buncom: Crossroads Station," by Connie Fowler and J.B. Roberts. The book is out of print now, but copies can be found in area libraries or used-book stores.

REMINDER: SONS OF SAN JOAQUIN MARCH 9

Save the date: March 9. That's the night the Sons of the San Joaquin are performing at Medford's Craterian Theater, and we have a block of tickets reserved. The cost is $23 per ticket, $17 for those under age 18. Call Lyn Hennion (899-7656) to reserve yours.

They make a great Christmas present!

THE BUNCOM REGISTER

At Buncom Day in May, for the first time we offered the Buncom Register, an opportunity for everyone to record thoughts about Buncom. It could be old-timers reminiscing, or newcomers with their first impressions, or anything in between.

Occasionally in the newsletter we'll occasionally print some of the writings from the Register. We'll have the Register available each year at Buncom Day, and hope that it will become an important source for Buncom's future history.

From this year's offerings:

"When I was a kid I used to drive by on the bus. I used to see these buildings and wonder what they were. Today I brought my kids to see it." -- Kari Cooper.

"My great-great grandfather, William Cantrall, came to this area with his oldest son, Stephen, in 1852. They worked in Sterling Mine appr. two years and then went back to Illinois. The following year, 1856, three of the brothers, John, Stephen and Andrew, came back to the Rogue Valley. John homesteaded on the Applegate River. Many of the family could have gone to school in Buncom.

"John Cantrall was my great-grandfather.. He and other members of our family are buried at Sterling Creek Cemetery." -- Delbert G. Cantrall.

"Charter member family of the Buncom Historical Society (with Connie Fowler). We built a log cabin on Grouse Creek and lived there for 5 years. We miss it terribly. I used to run on Little Applegate Road and take my children to play at Kenney Meadows on Yale Creek." -- Lou and Linda Nisbet.

"My father was born in the log house on Little Applegate Road in 1900, one of 5 children, Osie, Lee, Glenn and Ottie. Lee and Ottie died young.

"My father's father was named Bird Saltmarsh and Gramma was Dora Saltmarsh (Pool) (Eagle Point).

"Osie married John Cantrall.

"Glenn married Vieva Hamilton.

"Dean married Flora Manke. She was teaching school in Uniontown school. She also taught at the Sterling Creek School.

"The log house burned in 1929. I was 2 years old at that time." -- Hazel Ratty (Saltmarsh)

From the Oregon Trail:

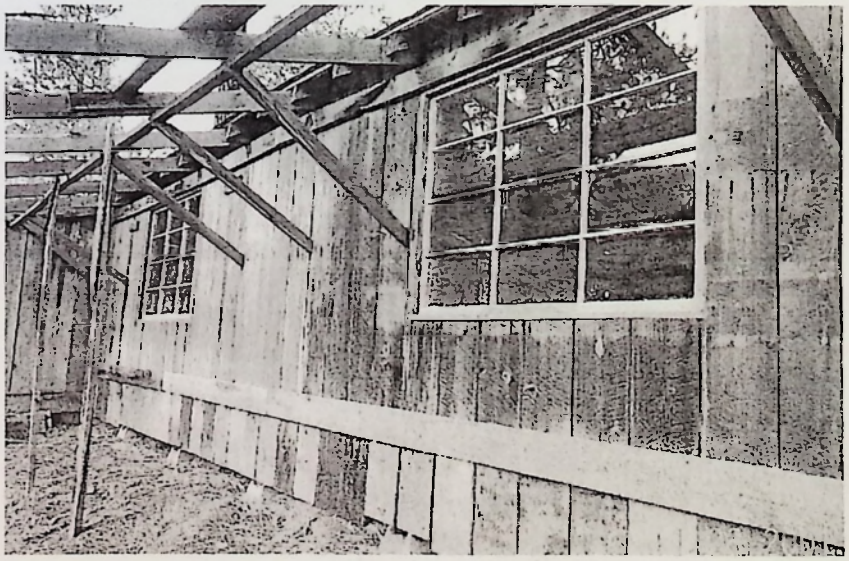
"Sometime" 1847

Today I am scared, but glad at the same time. Why I am scard is because Blue Black died todary and mayle one of my children will die also. It must be hard for them, I mean loving a fambry member and all. Also why I am glad is because we still have our wagon when other people lost their's. Also they are starving. We're trying to help the other wagons, but it's very hard for them. Oh I wish I could help them more, like give them food and water, but we need all we have. I hope they make it and will be all right.

We were delighted to have the participation of Ruch School at Buncom Day. The chorus sang and marched in the parade, and Jane Setum's 4th grade class provided a display of a "Journal" they had created of a settler family's travel on the Oregon Trail. Here is the Journal page from one day.

COOKHOUSE WINDOWS

Many many years ago the Cookhouse had windows. Now it has them again! (Story on Page 1)



Here's what the Post Office looked like in the 1950s with a porch. The Society's directors have decided to restore the porch next spring (see story on Page 1).

DIRECTORS

Reeve Hennion, President 899-7656
Lyn Hennion

J.B. Roberts, Secretary 899-1125
Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer

Ben Fowler 899-7805
Connie Fowler

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet:
www.buncom.org

To join the Society, send $5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

It's Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew memberships for the year 2002. Dues remain the same, $5.00 per family. For that princely sum you get a quarterly newsletter and the right to tell all your friends that you are members! Just fill out the form below and send it with $5.00 to the address at the bottom.

And here's something else to remember: If you're looking for an unusual and inexpensive Christmas gift, how about a Society membership?

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP DUES

Here are my/our membership dues for 2002. Enclosed is $5.00 for an individual or family membership.

Here is my/our name as we would like it to appear on the mailing list:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Comments: _____

_____

_____

Mail to: Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530

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